

REMARKS

The present application includes pending claims 1-57, of which claims 13, 26, and 35-57 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-12, 14-25, and 27-34 remain rejected. By this Amendment, claims 1, 14, and 27 have been amended as set forth above. The Applicants respectfully traverse the claim rejections at least for the reasons discussed previously and below, and submit that the pending claims define allowable subject matter.

Kajisono discloses an "apparatus for purifying and activating water." Kajisono at Abstract. The apparatus includes a capsule secured to an end of a drive shaft. *See id.* The capsule includes a plurality of "small apertures." *See id.* at abstract and column 3, lines 33-35 ("The capsule 32 includes a plurality of small apertures 31 in the circumferential wall thereof.").

Kajisono discloses a system in which air bubbles pass through the apertures, i.e., holes. *See, e.g.,* Kajisono at column 1, lines 58-61 ("The drive shaft is provided, at the lower end thereof, with a capsule having a plurality of small apertures in the circumference thereof for ejecting air therefrom."); and column 3, lines 59-60 ("Each aperture 31 is appropriately sized so as to produce very small air bubbles.).

The resulting air bubbles remain suspended in the water for a long period of time.

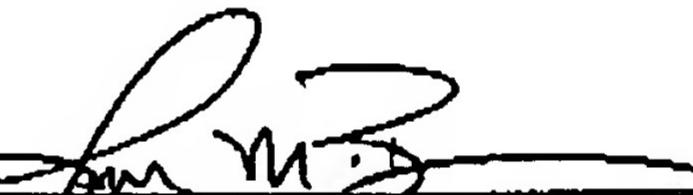
Such air is discharged from the lower opening of the outer casing and the lower opening of the drive shaft and is distributed in water as a large number of small bubbles, i.e., micro-bubbles. The bubble (sic) are very small in diameter so that they may be retained or suspended in water for a long period of time.

Id. at column 2, lines 26-32.

Kajisono, however, does not explicitly or inherently disclose an agitator that stirs water retained within a water retention structure. Thus, at least for this reason, the Applicants respectfully submit that Kajisono does not anticipate the claims of the present application.

The Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims of the present application should be in condition for allowance at least for the reasons discussed above, and request reconsideration of the claim rejections. Should anything remain in order to place the present application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone listed below. Please charge any necessary fees or credit any overpayment to Account No. 13-0017.

Respectfully submitted,

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